

SCINCIDÆ.

L. novæ-guineæ, Meyer.

L. semonis, Oudemans.

Emoa cyanogaster, Lesson.

E. cyanura, Lesson.

Ablepharus boutonii, Desjardins.

BATRACHIA.

Three frogs were sent in the collection.

Hyla arfakiana, Peters and Doria.—One example, agreeing well with the description and figures in the Ann. Mus. Genova, 1878, except that the tympanum is relatively larger in our specimen, being in diameter half as large as the eye. The authors describe extreme variation in colour. The present specimen is (in spirit) purplish-brown above and brownish below; the thighs are purple, spotted with whitish behind.

Batrachopsis melanopyga, Doria.—Two individuals, measuring 45 and 47 mm. respectively from snout to vent. The tympanum is nearly as long in vertical diameter as the eye is wide. There is no perceptible dark streak on the canthus rostralis. Otherwise the specimens agree with the generic and specific descriptions.

ii. OPHIDIA and PISCES.—By J. DOUGLAS OGILBY.

The collection of snakes numbers eight, belonging to the following species:—

1. TROPIDONOTUS (?) PICTURATUS.

According to Dr. Boulenger this is a widely spread and very variable species; and as it seems to me that it may be possible to break it up into well-marked subspecies or local races, I think it advisable to give the following description of the Fife Bay specimens in order to facilitate comparison with specimens from other localities:—

Eye as long as its distance from the anterior border of the nostril. Rostral much broader than deep, just visible from above; internasals a little broader than long, as long as the prefrontals,

broadly truncate anteriorly; frontal once and one-third as long as broad, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, much shorter than the parietals; loreal longer than deep; 2 pre- and 3 postoculars; temporals 1 + 1; 8 upper labials, the third, fourth, and fifth entering the eye; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are but little smaller than the posterior. Scales in 15 series, the outer conspicuously keeled; ventrals 140; anal divided; subcaudals 82. Olive-green; labials yellow, with dark edges; below yellowish, the subcaudals dark edged.*

From Dr. Boulenger's description this example differs in having the internasals broader than long, the frontal only one and one-third times as long as broad and much shorter than the parietals, the loreal longer than deep, and the outer series of scales conspicuously keeled. *Katophis plumbea*, Macleay, agrees much better with Dr. Boulenger's description, but in all three examples the rostral is twice as broad as deep, and the loreal is as long or longer than deep. The shape and position of the temporals are very variable, no two specimens being alike in this respect. So far as can be judged from the data before me Papuan specimens have invariably a longer tail than Australian; thus:—

a. Fife Bay, New Guinea	—subc.	82.
b-d. Katow, New Guinea	— „	72.
e-g. Fly River, New Guinea—	„	74, 80, 82.*
a-b. Herbert River, Q.	— „	61, 64 (<i>T. ater</i>).
c. Cape York, Q.	— „	58.*
d. Rockhampton, Q.	— „	72.*
e-g. Port Essington, N.T.	— „	67, 68, 72.*
h. N.W. Australia	— „	66.*
i. N. Australia	— „	69.*

This short series gives—New Guinea, 72-82; Australia, 58-72. Of course this character may be of no importance, and may not be borne out by a larger series,† but there can be no harm in calling attention to it.

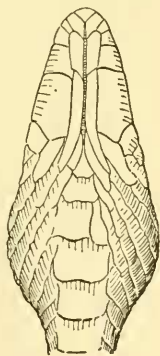
* See British Museum Catalogue, i. p. 216.

† It is worth noting that the smallest number mentioned by Boulenger was found in a Cape York specimen.

T. ater, Macleay, only differs from *T. picturatus* in having a longer and narrower frontal shield, which in the two examples is from one and three-fourths to one and nine-tenths times as long as wide, and is much longer than the parietals. *T. angusticeps* cannot be separated from *T. picturatus*.

2. *DENDRELAPHIS SCHLENCKERI*, sp.nov.

Maxillary teeth 20. Eye very large, as long as its distance from the middle of the nostril. Rostral about twice as broad as deep, just visible from above; internasals as long as the pre-frontals; frontal once and a half to once and three-fifths as long as broad, much longer than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; loreal elongate, between twice and thrice as long as broad; one pre- and two post-oculars, the lower small; temporals 2 + 2 or 1 + 2; eight upper labials, fourth and fifth entering the eye; four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are much shorter than the posterior, the fifth greatly enlarged. Scales in 13 rows. Ventrals 185 to 187; anal divided; subcaudals 118 to 132. Upper surface olive-brown, the neck and anterior portion of the body much darker, with the vertebral series of scales bluish-white, tipped with pale brown, forming a conspicuous band; a narrow black streak from the snout to the neck; upper labial, lower surface of head, and throat yellow; lower surface of body bluish-white, indistinctly spotted with darker. (Named for its discoverer, the Rev. H. P. Schlencker of the London Missionary Society.)



($\times 1\frac{1}{2}$)

This species is closely allied to *Dendrelaphis papuensis*, but differs constantly in the larger eye, longer frontal, and decreased number of lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shield. Five specimens are in the collection, the largest measuring 1,100 millimeters, the tail being 350.

Note by T. Steel.—I have placed the type specimen of this snake in the Australian Museum, Sydney (Register No. R. 2380), and purpose sending a specimen to the British Museum of Natural History.

3. DIPSADOMORPHUS IRREGULARIS.

One specimen.

4. PLATURUS sp.

I am unable to determine to which species this example should be referred—*schistorhynchus* or *muelleri*. The rostral is deeper than broad; there is no azygous shield between the nasals, but a large one is present between the prefrontals; the frontal is longer than the parietals; eight upper labials; 1 + 2 temporals; scales in 22 series; ventrals 238; subcaudals 35. Black annuli 66.

From *muelleri*, with which the example agrees best, it differs in the presence of an azygous prefrontal shield, the frontal exceeding the parietal, and the number of series of body scales.

I am not quite satisfied with the generic names assigned to some of our Australian *Hydrophiinae* by Dr. Boulenger. For instance, the name *Hydrus* is restricted to the species which is more commonly known as *Pelamis bicolor*; but it cannot properly be used for that species, because the type of *Hydrus*, Schneider, is *H. colubrinus* (Hist. Amph. i. p. 238, 1799); *colubrinus*, however, belongs to a group to which the generic name *Laticauda* had previously been given by Laurenti (Syn. Rept. p. 109, 1768), the type of whose genus is *Coluber laticaudatus*, Linnæus, and though the name is intrinsically bad, I do not think that for that reason only it can be ignored, since it had not been used by any earlier author. The second species of *Hydrus* described by Schneider (l.c. p. 240) is that which we now know as *Hydrophis fasciatus*, and if the name can be used at all—which I am not prepared to concede—it should be referred to the genus which is called *Hydrophis* by Dr. Boulenger. Schneider's third species is the *Anguis platura* of Linnæus (Syst. Nat. i. p. 391, 1766), the *Hydrus bicolor* of Schneider (l.c. p. 242), and the *Hydrus platurus* of the British Museum Catalogue; I am unable to understand how this latter

name can be defended on any of the laws which govern synonymy. The three other species referred by Schneider to the genus *Hydrus* belong to the other groups of colubrine snakes; they are : (1) *H. granulatus*, an aglyphous form, of which the correct name is *Chersydrus granulatus*, (2) *H. enhydris* (l.c. p. 245), and (3) *H. rhynchops* (l.c. p. 246), opisthoglyphous snakes, which are now generally recognised as *Hypsirhina enhydris* and *Cerberus rhynchops*. Each of these species has an equal title, perhaps I should be more correct in saying an equally bad title, to the name *Hydrus* as the *Anguis platura* has. I have not the books of reference necessary to determine whether *Pelamis* can be used for this species, but it is significant that no less than nine pages (357 to 366) separate the diagnosis of the genus *Pelamis* from that of the species *bicolor*. In any case *Hydrus* is only a synonym of *Laticauda*, *Platurus*, Daudin, which Dr. Boulenger uses, being later than either of these. I would, therefore, prefer to call our species *Laticauda muelleri*.

PISCES.

The collection of fishes contains 10 specimens, all of which are in bad condition, and, with the exception of two (Nos. 2 and 6), immature. They are as follows :—

1. *Plotosus arab*, Forskål.
2. *Lycodontis fimbriatus*, Bennett.
3. *Atherina* sp.
4. *Therapon jarbua*, Forskål.
5. *Monacanthus tomentosus*, Linnæus.
6. *Periophthalmus koelreuteri*, Pallas.
7. *Platophrys* sp.

IV. INSECTA and ARACHNIDA—By W. J. RAINBOW.*

The collection of insects, etc., enumerated below is essentially typical of the Arthropod fauna of the Austro-Malayan region. Many of them are peculiarly Papuan; some few are found in other parts of the Pacific; and two at any rate, namely, the cockroach, *Panesthia aethops*, and the centipede, *Scolopendra morsicans*, have a world-wide distribution.